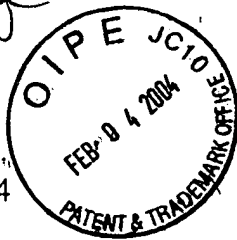


JENKINS
WILSON
& TAYLOR

patent attorneys

February 2, 2004



2818
✓/B

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 2, 2004.

Cathi H. Turner
Date of Signature: February 2, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/998,080 for
M^{III}N BASED MATERIALS AND METHODS AND
APPARATUS FOR PRODUCING SAME
Our Ref. No. 297/105/2

Sir:

Please find enclosed in connection with the subject U.S. patent application the following documents:

1. An Amendment Transmittal Form (2 pages);
2. An Amendment D (25 pages);
3. A Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) (2 pages); and
4. A return-receipt postcard to be returned to us with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office filing stamp thereon.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account Number 50-0426.

Respectfully submitted,

JENKINS, WILSON & TAYLOR, P.A.

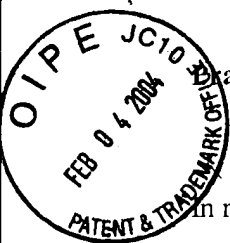
Richard E. Jenkins
Richard E. Jenkins
Registration No. 28,428

297/105/2 REJ/EEM/cht
Enclosures
Customer No: 25297

tel 919.493.8000
fax 919.419.0383

Jenkins, Wilson & Taylor, P.A.
JenkinsWilsonTaylor.com

University Tower, Suite 1400 | 3100 Tower Boulevard | Durham, North Carolina 27707



Practitioner's Docket No. 297/105/2

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Jerome J. Cuomo

Application No.: 09/998,080

Group No.: 2818

Filed: 11/30/2001

Examiner: David Nhu

For: M^{III}N BASED MATERIALS AND METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR PRODUCING SAME

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL

1. Transmitted herewith is an amendment for this application.

STATUS

2. Applicant is a small entity.

EXTENSION OF TERM

3. The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.136 apply. Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 (fees: 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(1)-(4)) for one month:

Fee: \$55.00

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.8(a) and 1.10*

(When using Express Mail, the Express Mail label number is mandatory;
Express Mail certification is optional.)

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being:

MAILING

■ deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)

■ with sufficient postage as first class mail.

37 C.F.R. § 1.10*

□ as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee"

Mailing Label No. _____ (mandatory)

TRANSMISSION

□ facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office, (703) _____

Cathi H. Turner
Signature

Date: 2/2/04

Cathi H. Turner

(type or print name of person certifying)

* Only the date of filing (§ 1.6) will be the date used in a patent term adjustment calculation, although the date on any certificate of mailing or transmission under § 1.8 continues to be taken into account in determining timeliness. See § 1.703(f). Consider "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" (§ 1.10) or facsimile transmission (§ 1.6(d)) for the reply to be accorded the earliest possible filing date for patent term adjustment calculations.

FEE FOR CLAIMS

4. The fee for claims (37 C.F.R. 1.16(b)-(d)) has been calculated as shown below:

	(Col. 1)	(Col. 2)	(Col. 3)	SMALL ENTITY			
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE	ADDIT. FEE		
TOTAL	49	—	59	= 0 x \$	9.00	= \$	0.00
INDEP.	3	—	6	= 0 x \$	43.00	= \$	0.00
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEP. CLAIM				+ \$	0.00	= \$	0.00
				TOTAL ADDIT. FEE		\$	0.00

No additional fee for claims is required.

FEE PAYMENT

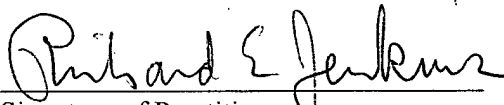
5. Authorization is hereby made to charge the amount of \$55.00 to Deposit Account No. 50-0426.

Charge any additional fees required by this paper or credit any overpayment in the manner authorized above.

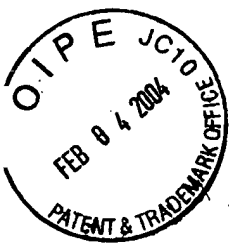
A duplicate of this paper is attached.

Date: 2-2-04

297/105/2 REJ/EEM/cht
Customer No.: 25297


Signature of Practitioner

Richard E. Jenkins
Registration No. 28,428



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Cathi H. Turner
Cathi H. Turner
Date of Signature February 2, 2004

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Cuomo et al.

Group Art Unit: 2818

Serial No.: 09/998,080

Examiner: Nhu, David

Filed: November 30, 2001

Docket No.: 297/105/2

Confirmation No.: 4519

For: M^{III}N BASED MATERIALS AND METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR
PRODUCING SAME

AMENDMENT D

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is responsive to the third, non-final Office Action dated October 3, 2003, for which a shortened statutory period for reply expired on January 3, 2004. A Petition for a 1-month Extension of Time is filed herewith extending the time for response up to and including February 3, 2004. Please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0426 in the amount of \$55.00. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested in view of the following Amendments and Remarks.